

REMARKS

New claims 39-41 are presented for prosecution.

Claims 1-41 remain pending in the application. Of these, claims 1 and 36-38 are currently amended.

Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sweezer et al. U.S. 6,293,920 in view of Macoviak et al. U.S. 6,508,777. Neither of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a second cannula that is sized and configured to guide a first cannula in a non-linear direction, as defined by amended independent claims 1 and 36-38. Further, the cited references do not teach or suggest a method in which a second cannula is inserted into a patient and a first cannula is then passed through the second cannula, as defined by new independent claim 41.

~~Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of~~
claims 1-41 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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